

Your submission to Proposed mandatory phase out of single-use plastic shopping bags

Reference no: 227

Submitter Type: Individual

Clause

1. Do you agree with the proposed mandatory phase out of the sale or distribution of single-use plastic shopping bags in New Zealand, including those made of degradable (eg, oxo-degradable, biodegradable and compostable) plastic? Why / why not?

Position

Not sure

Notes

Not sure why this is asking if we want to ban compostable bags as well... surely compostable bags would be the better alternative to thicker plastic bags? I am definitely in favour of banning plastic bags but I am not in favour of banning biodegradable bags etc. I think it is wrong for this question to include both and will produce inaccurate data.

Clause

2. We have proposed a mandatory phase out of single-use plastic shopping bags. This could include under 50 microns or under 70 microns in thickness. If you agree with a mandatory phase out, which option do you prefer, and why?

Position

Other (please specify)

Notes

All plastic bags should be phased out. They should be replaced with bioplastics that are biodegradable / compostable. NZ should be growing and manufacturing hemp into plastic products. Something will need to replace the agriculture industry..

Clause

3. Are you aware of types of single-use plastic shopping bags that should be exempt from a mandatory phase out?

Position

Yes

Notes

Clause

3a. If yes, what are they and why should they be exempt?

Notes

All plastic bags should be banned for very obvious reasons. If you replace thin plastic bags with thick plastic bags sold at a reasonably cheap price then the people will just buy those thicker bags. I have watched it happen here in Australia.

Clause

4. Do you currently manufacture, sell, provide or import for sale or personal use these types of single-use plastic shopping bags:

Position

No

Notes

Clause

5. Should smaller retailers be exempted from a mandatory phase out of single-use plastic shopping bags? Why / why not?

Position

No

Notes

A standard needs to be set. Values need to be driven. This consumerist culture must be led in a new direction before it is too late.

Clause

7. The proposed mandatory phase-out period for single-use plastic shopping bags is at least six months from when regulations are Gazetted , subject to consultation. Do you agree with this timing?

Position

No

Notes

It should be like when they changed the road rules recently Everyone adapted to that without any issues... so we do have the

capacity to change when the change is properly implemented.

Clause

10. How can people be encouraged to reuse multiple-use shopping bags enough times to offset the environmental impacts of producing them? (select one or more)

Position

Other (please specify)

Notes

Both those options are good. It should be done in as many ways as possible.

Clause

11. What would help you and your family adjust to life without single-use plastic shopping bags?

Notes

That National Geographic article. Especially the picture of the bird. I already adjusted though I haven't used plastic bags since they were banned here in QLD.

Clause

13. Please provide any additional comments or suggestions about the proposed mandatory phase out of single-use plastic shopping bags.

Notes

Here in Queensland we had the ban on plastic bags come into effect a month ago. Since then, I see more and more people switching to re-usable canvas fabric bags. However, many many people are still using plastic bags, and even though they are now thicker, "re-usable" bags costing 15cents each, people are still only using them once. These thicker bags are worse for the environment than the previous ones! People just don't care enough. The key is to get people to care, or for people with no compassion or regard for life, perhaps an incentive that will reward them for doing the right thing, such as charging for plastic bags but then refunding them upon return? Perhaps your canvas bag has some barcode that when scanned offers some discount or other reward. My approach would be to use compostable bags rather than plastic and to make people as aware as possible of the environmental disaster on our hands. People just don't seem to grasp it yet.

You have elected to withhold your personal details from publication.